SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, a pernicious propaganda is being carried out by the private sector that the public sector is utilising resources that may be available to them. But competition is not forbidden. Would the Minister clarify that this is a wrong propaganda done by the private sector to malign the public sector?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant. Next Question.

U.S. Aid to India

*136. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:†

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States have proposed $143.795 million aid to India for the fiscal year 1988 as against about $684.161 million aid to Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is the break-up of the U.S. aid proposed for India and for Pakistan; and

(c) how the proposed aid item-wise compares with the demands/ requirements preferred by Government and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DATT): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) we have been informed by our Embassy in Washington that for the Fiscal year 1988, the U.S. President proposed an assistance to India of $143.275 million. Aid proposed for Pakistan in FY-77 is reported $677.8 million.

(b) Aid to India consists of Developmental Assistance of $50 million and Title II assistance under Law-480 of $93.275 million. For Pakistan, reportedly, the break up is DA of $50 million, and Title I and Title II assistance under PL-480 of $80 million and $6.95 million, respectively. In addition, it has also been proposed that Pakistan be given an assistance of $250 million under the Economic Support Fund (given on the basis of the political and strategic considerations of the U.S. Government) and $290.91 million as military assistance.

(c) The Government of India does not indicate to the US Government any bilateral aid demand or request.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : सभापति महोदय, हमारे वाशिंगटन स्थित दूतावास ने जो सूचना दी है, उसमें वर्ष 1988 के लिए 14 करोड़ रूपए के लगभग डालर भारत के लिए और 67 करोड़ के लगभग डालर पाकिस्तान के लिए हैं। हम इस कमी को कैसे मीट करेंगे, इसके लिए सरकार क्या सोच रही है ?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त : मान्यवर, इसके ऊपर अपनी आवश्यकता पूरी करने के लिए हम अमरीका के ऊपर आधारित नहीं हैं।

Liberalisation of FERA

*137. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:†

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for leberalisation of FERA is

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Ratnakar Pandey.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalpnath Rai.

under the Governments consideration and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) The Government of India had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Ghosh, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, to review the Exchange Control Regulations. The recommendations of the Ghosh Committee which have been accepted by the Government are given in the enclosed Statement. [*See* Appendix CXLI, Annexure No. 37].

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Response to FERA Amnesty Scheme

*123. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the response received so far to the Government's amnesty scheme for FERA violators announced in November, 1986, stating the amount of funds and assets in foreign countries declared so far by the holders, with their names; and

(b) what are the reasons for the poor response, if any, to the scheme and what steps are contemplated by the Government in this regard;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) As on 21st February, 1987, the Reserve Bank of India had received 63 declarations under FERA Amnesty Scheme. It is not in public interest to disclose the names and amount. The Scheme is valid upto 31st March, 1987, and it is too early to make an assessment of the response.

Radiation hazards posed by the Indian Rare Earths Limited

*125. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Rare Earths Ltd., a Government company is posing serious radiation hazards to the entire population of Ernakulam-Alwaye industrial belt in Kerala by processing thorium and zirconium and that cancer cases among the workers of the Indian Rare Earths Ltd. are on the increase;

(b) whether Government have conducted any study in this regard; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the measures taken by Government to provide hundred per cent protection to the workers of the India Rare Earths Ltd. against radiation hazards, besides providing adequate facilities for disposal of radioactive wastes so as to prevent any tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In order to allay the fears in the minds of the public arising out of various press reports on the occupational health hazards at IRE, Alwaye, investigations have